

MEETING SUMMARY | February 27, 2013

Santa Rosa Plain Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting in Brief

Continued Refinement of Basin Management Objectives

Building on previous efforts, the TAC discussed the latest version of the Basin Management Goal and Objectives (BMOs). The TAC provided a range of suggestions to improve the working draft. Refinement of the BMOs will remain an iterative process throughout the development of the GMP.

Initial Feedback on Stakeholder Involvement

The TAC reviewed and discussed the first draft of the stakeholder involvement section and provided feedback on various components and associated planned actions. Suggestions focused primarily on building an effective outreach program to enhance information dissemination, secure support for the GMP, foster two-way communication and ensure appropriate agency support for stakeholder engagement efforts.

Ongoing Use of Dropbox to Acquire and Review Draft Sections

TAC members will continue to use the online file-sharing site Dropbox as a means to acquire draft sections of the GMP for review. The Project Team will notify the TAC when draft sections are ready and will provide appropriate links to access documents. Members are reminded to only *download* files from Dropbox. Subsequent to review, members should email comments directly to the Project Team. Following each TAC meeting, members have one week to submit any additional commentary or feedback on discussed sections.

<http://www.scwa.gov/srgroundwater/>

Next Meetings

Upcoming TAC Meeting Dates: March 27, 2013 and April 24, 2013 at the Sonoma County Water Agency office, 404 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa.

Action Items

Timeframe	Name	Action Item
March	Project Team	Distribute Dropbox links to draft GMP sections

TAC Progress to Date

The TAC discussed progress to date in developing the GMP, including an overview of draft sections developed to date; the linkage between objectives and management components; the process for completing the GMP; and the role of the USGS model in evaluating programs, projects and activities that support implementation.

Review of Basin Management Objectives

Building on the Panel's previous work, the TAC reviewed the latest version of the Basin Management Goal and Objectives (BMOs). Refinement of the BMOs will remain an iterative process throughout the development of the GMP. Members noted the following considerations for improving the latest working draft:

Section 4.3.1 Integrated Groundwater Management

- Introduction – Consider use of the term “watershed” and find ways that the GMP can interact with existing watershed plans
- BMO 2 – Phrase “to maximum extent possible” needs to be qualified with “ecosystem protection”
- BMO 5 – Suggest frame sentence more positively as “costly” sounds negative

Section 4.3.2 Stakeholder Involvement and Public Awareness

- BMO 6 – Improve clarity and purpose of first sentence by deleting “to try to”
- BMO 6 and 7 – Consider “engage” versus “inform” stakeholders (e.g. agencies, stakeholders, wider public)
- BMO 6 and 7 – Facilitate two-way communication and person-to-person contact
- BMO 6 and 7 – Conduct outreach with existing community groups at stakeholder selected sites
- BMO 6 and 7 – Organize informational gatherings through field trips
- BMO 6 and 7 – Consider evening meetings
- Consider the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District as a source for outreach and information dissemination
- Utilize “Slow It, Spread It, Sink It” documentary as an outreach tool

Section 4.3.3 Groundwater Protection and Recharge

- BMO 9 – Suggest proactive language “facilitate coordination between agencies and interest groups” over passive “make maps available”
- BMO 9 – Add “identify known and potential sites”; ensure sensitivity of included information relative to toxic plume locations
- BMO 9 – Recognize the difficulty in maintaining current status of polluted sites; highlight what GMP does not do (e.g. site specific regulations, project design, permitting etc.)
- Consider adjusting local design and construction standards to capture water; potential for adoption by municipalities in the future
- Consider addition of proactive words referencing the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) and Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District re: recharge protection strategies and application to general plans, not just maps
- Ensure accuracy of information

Section 4.3.5 Water Reuse

- Introduction – Place less emphasis on statewide goals and more focus on local availability of water resources (e.g. assess local water quantities)
- BMO 13 – Identify requirements for recycled water program (e.g. review Geysers contract)
- BMO 13 – Identify ways to mitigate costs (e.g. consider trade offs as cost makes greater productivity prohibitive)

Section 4.3.6 Monitoring and Modeling

- BMO 17 – Make first sentence more specific with “and reduce volume of groundwater storage space”
- Identify potential parties to conduct monitoring

General comments

- Align BMOs and management components sequence (e.g. monitoring BMOs need to appear earlier)
- Note that some included Panel interests are not objectives and may be moved to appropriate management component sections
- Create central repository (i.e. clearing house of information) to enhance information dissemination and improve public awareness of the GMP

Initial Feedback on Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholder involvement is fundamental to ensuring a successful collaborative effort to develop, implement and secure widespread support for the GMP. The TAC reviewed the first draft of the stakeholder involvement section and provided feedback on various sections and associated planned actions.

- Section 5.1.1 – Reframe outreach goal to get community residents to take ownership of GMP and adopt voluntary programs; make outreach plan more specific and ensure interagency support
- Section 5.1.1 – Note that Panel members are still the primary conduit for two way information sharing (i.e. public shares feedback through Panel members versus in attendance at Panel meetings)
- Section 5.1.1 – Add “develop outreach program to targeted community groups” to planned action 8
- Section 5.1.3 – Clarify the responsibilities of the Panel and not just the water agency per previous Panel discussions regarding “ownership” of the GMP; balance language with existing water code regulations
- Section 5.1.3 – Addition to planned action 8: meet with local organizations to secure feedback on their specific concerns relative to groundwater management
- Section 5.1.4 – Under planned action 1, note that Total Maximum Daily Loads for pollutants fall under the purview of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, not the GMP
- Section 5.1.4 – Clarify who will seek and coordinate grant funding
- Consider addition of topical issues that support outreach:
 - Outreach modules that improve “buy in” to the GMP
 - Water: where does it come from and how is it used
 - Actions: what the public can do to improve local water availability
 - Outreach tools: open houses
- Identify specific stakeholder groups and target audiences:
 - Watershed groups
 - Homeowners associations
 - Chamber of commerce
 - Sonoma County Alliance
 - Water and resource conservation districts
 - Elder homes
 - Schools and community colleges
- Specify key local agencies for stakeholder coordination:
 - PRMD
 - Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
 - Local municipalities
 - Interagency working groups
- Build on previous Panel and TAC feedback to develop future outreach plan

- Capitalize on opportunity to provide outreach to resource conservation district watershed management plans

General comments

- Many members supported inclusion of resource listings for reported/reporting polluted sites, where to go, how to get information etc. versus developing an extensive stakeholder outreach component to address the issue

Management Components

Due to time constraints the TAC did not discuss the development of GMP management components. The TAC will consider an initial list of potential management component topics leading up to the next meeting. The list is based on feedback received at previous Panel and TAC meetings. Once the management components are completed, the TAC will work to prioritize activities, projects and alternatives to develop a schedule, budget and implementation plan. The USGS model will help analyze various alternatives and determine benefits for groundwater management in the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed.

Document Review and Use of Dropbox

TAC members will continue to use the online file-sharing site Dropbox as a means to acquire draft sections of the GMP for review. The Project Team will notify the TAC when draft sections are ready and will provide appropriate links to access documents. Members are reminded to only *download* files from Dropbox. Subsequent to review, members should email comments directly to the Project Team. The Project Consultant will upload updated documents on a regular basis and will notify the group for viewing opportunities. Members should follow the agreed upon file name convention, with the minor addition of inserting an underscore between year_month_day:

Document Name 2012_09_26_Reviewer Initials
(Year_Month_Day); list date you work on document in file name

Example:

Section 5 Goals and Objectives 2012_10_26_RW (edits submitted by RW on Oct 26, 2012)

TAC Meeting Attendees

TAC Members

Kevin Cullinen
Rocky Vogler
Joe Gaffney
Gary Mickelson
Lloyd Iverson
Jane Nielson
Tom Hammond
Mark Calhoon
Bob Anderson
Lisa Micheli
Michael Burns

Project Team

Project Manager, Marcus Trotta
Technical Consultant, Tim Parker
TAC Facilitator, Rich Wilson

TAC Visitors

Karl Adelman